

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 15111 01 OF 02 121243Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SWF-01 AID-05 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00

AGR-05 /096 W

----- 074498

P R 121130Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8263

CNFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 7672

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 15111 01 OF 02 121243Z

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
RFBO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTTTOE
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 15111

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT --NOVEMBER 12, 1974

GENERAL

1. A 105-TRUCK RICE CONVOY PUSHED DOWN NEWLY REOPENED ROUTE 5 FROM BATTAMBANG TO KOMPONG CHHNANG, HOPEFULLY SHORING-UP PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE GKR'S ABILITY TO BRING RICE AND OTHER PRODUCE TO THE CAPITAL AND EASING PRESSURE ON FREE MARKET RICE PRICES. PARLIAMENT VOTED RENEWAL OF THE LAW PUTTING THE NATION "IN DANGER" BUT RETAINED FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. KHMER COMMUNIST FORCES KEPT UP HEAVY PRESSURE AGAINST SVAY RIENG WITH ROCKETS DOWNTOWN AND MORTAR AND GROUND ATTACKS AROUND THE PERIMETER. FANK DEFENDERS ACQUITTED THEMSELVES WELL AND RECENTLY-ARRIVED REINFORCEMENTS SHOULD HELP KEEP THE SITUATION IN HAND. THE KC MADE A FEW MODEST PROMISES FOR THE UPCOMING DRY SEASON; THEY DID NOT TALK OF QUICK VICTORY, HOWEVER, OR EVEN OF ATTACKING PHNOM PENH PROPER AT ALL.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. INDONESIAN NEWS MEDIA REPORT THAT LON NOL TOLD VISITING INDONESIAN JOURNALISTS HE WELCOMED (A) INITIA-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 15111 01 OF 02 121243Z

TIVES FROM FRIENDLY NATIONS AIMED AT ASSISTING THE KHMER TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FATE, AND (B) GREATER UN INVOLVEMENT IN THE KHMER ISSUE. THE PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY ADMITTED THAT, WHILE NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE STILL OPERATING IN CAMBODIA, THEY ARE NOT ENGAGED IN DIRECT COMBAT. THEIR CURRENT PRIMARY ROLE, HE SAID, IS PROVIDING TRAINING AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.

3. PARLIAMENT VOTED TO EXTEND THE LAW PUTTING THE NATION "IN DANGER" BY AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS, EFFECTIVE NOV 14, BUT AGAIN EXCEPTED FREEDOM OF THE PRESS FROM LIBERTIES SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT DECREE. UNDER THE LAW, THE GKR MAY DECREE IN MATTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE, DOMICILE AND ASSEMBLY SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

4. GRUNK SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA, ARE APPARENTLY DETERMINED TO HAVE THE UNGA PLENARY BEGIN DEBATE ON THE KHMER ISSUE NOVEMBER 25 JUST AFTER THE PALESTINE DEBATE. THEY EVIDENTLY ANTICIPATE THAT IF THE TWO ITEMS ARE BACK-TO-BACK, ACRIMONY IN THE PALESTINE DEBATE WOULD WORK TO THE ADVANTAGE OF SIHANOUK'S CAUSE IN THE ENSUING KHMER DEBATE.

5. CO-SPONSORS OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION HAVE DRAFTED LANGUAGE TO STRENGTHEN THE EMPHASIS ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ROLE IN THE SECOND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH OF THEIR RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE WISHES OF KENYA AND NIGERIA. THE CO-SPONSORS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHEN TO RELEASE THE AMENDMENT.

6. GKR FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER PAN SOTHI AND PERMREP IN GENEVA DR. SO SATTIA WILL SUPPORT THE KHMER TECHNICAL DELEGATION IN CASE KHMER CREDENTIALS ARE CHALLENGED AT THE FAO CONFERENCE IN ROME. AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME ON NOVEMBER 7, THE PRC DENOUNCED GKR PRESENCE AS "ENTIRELY ILLEGAL", ASSERTING THAT GRUNK IS THE ONLY LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 15111 01 OF 02 121243Z

GRUNK/FUNK

7. CLANDESTINE RADIO HAS ESTABLISHED FAIRLY MODEST GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING DRY SEASON. A NOVEMBER 6 COMMENTARY SETS FORTH AIMS OF : (A) LAUNCHING VIGOROUS ATTACKS AROUND PHNOM PENH AND SHELLING MILITARY TARGETS NEAR THE CAPITAL; (B) PREVENTING THE GKR USE OF KEY ROADS AND WATERWAYS; (C) ENCIRCLING THE PROVINCIAL ENCLAVES AND DESTROYING ENEMY POSITIONS AND (D) LAUNCHING A REAR-AREA OFFENSIVE TO INCREASE PRODUCTION TO SUPPORT THE TROOPS ON THE FRONT LINE. THESE EFFORTS WILL CREATE CONDITIONS FAVORABLE TO THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF PHNOM PENH AND ALL CAMBODIA, ACCORDING TO THE BROADCAST.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LAST YEAR'S EARLY COMMENTARY WAS

SOMEWHAT CAUTIOUS, THE OPENING BLAST IN THIS DRY SEASON
PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY
MUTED AND CAREFULLY HEDGED: IT MAKES NO MENTION OF
A QUICK VICTORY AND, EMPHASIZES, INSTEAD, THAT THE
DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE WILL SERVE TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK
FOR "FAVORABLE CONDITIONS" TO VICTORY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 15111 02 OF 02 121333Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SWF-01 AID-05 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00

AGR-05 /096 W

----- 074960

P R 121130Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8264

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 15111 02 OF 02 121333Z

CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSARPAC
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 15111

8. THE IENG SARY-LED GRUNK/FUNK ECONOMIC DELEGATION IS APPARENTLY STILL IN CHINA. THUS FAR THE DELEGATION HAS GENERATED LITTLE PUBLICITY COMPARED WITH THE COVERAGE OF THEIR VISIT TO NORTH VIET-NAM. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT YET OF A SARY-SIHANOUK MEETING.

ECONOMIC

9. RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH NOVEMBER 10 TOTALLED 25.3 THOUSAND TONS OR A 33-DAY SUPPLY AT 770 TONS PER DAY. ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION AVERAGED 726 TONS PER DAY DURING THE PAST WEEK. THIS INCREASED LEVEL MAY BE DUE IN PART TO A RUMORED INCREASE IN THE OFFICIAL PRICE OF RICE OR TO BUYING ADDITIONAL RESERVES TO CARRY THROUGH THE PERIOD JUST PRIOR TO THE NEXT RICE HARVEST IN BATTAMBANG. IN A NOVEMBER 5 BROADCAST , THE GKR FORMALLY DENIED THAT THE RICE PRICE WOULD INCREASE.

10. A MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED ON NOVEMBER 5 WITH 7,909 TONS OF RICE. IN ADDITION, A TRUCK CONVOY OF RICE FROM BATTAMBANG HAS REACHED KOMPONG CHHNANG WITH APPROXIMATELY 1,000 MT OF RICE DESTINED FOR PHNOM PENH (SEE MILITARY). THE USAID-CHARTERED FLEET OF SIX BARGES AND FOUR TUGS HAS SUCCESSFULLY MOVED 1,500 MT OF RICE FROM SIEM REAP ON THE TONLE SAP LAKE TO KOMPONG CHHNANG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 15111 02 OF 02 121333Z

AND IS CONTINUING ON TO PHNOM PENH.

11. PRICES OVERALL DECLINED SLIGHTLY DURING THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 11. THE MARKET PRICE FOR U.S. RICE WAS DOWN FOUR PERCENT, DECREASING FROM 230 TO 220 RIELS PER KILOGRAM (THE OFFICIAL PRICE IS 155 RIELS PER KILOGRAM). BATTAMBANG RICE REMAINED CONSTANT, AND FRESH WATER FISH DECLINED NINE PERCENT, OCEAN FISH ELEVEN PERCENT AND SALT THREE PERCENT. THE MAJOR EXCEPTIONS WERE SUGAR AND MILK WHICH ROSE 69 PERCENT AND 46 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. PORK AND BEEF ROSE ABOUT FIVE PERCENT WHILE CHICKEN DECLINED BY 13 PERCENT. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WERE MIXED, BUT GENERALLY CONSTANT. MOST OTHER GOODS SHOWED ONLY MINOR CHANGES.

12. THE BLACK MARKET DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE CONTINUED TO RISE DURING THE WEEK; OPENING AT 1,750 RIELS PER DOLLAR AND CLOSING THE WEEK AT AROUND 2,200. THE PRICE OF GOLD ALSO INCREASED FROM U.S. \$166 PER OUNCE TO \$181. ON NOVEMBER 11, THE FREE MARKET (OFFICIAL) EXCHANGE RATE WAS SET AT 1,610 RIELS PER DOLLAR, THE NOUVEA MARCHE DES CHANGES FLOOR RATE AT 1,440, THE CIP (NON-U.S. SOURCE) RATE AT 1,530, AND THE CIP (U.S.) RATE AT 1,290 RIELS PER DOLLAR.

MILITARY

13. KC FORCES CONTINUE TO LAUNCH MORTAR AND LIGHT GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST THE SVAY RIENG DEFENSE PERIMETER. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES ARE REPORTED LIGHT. ROCKETS (107MM) AGAINST THE CITY HAVE BEEN A DAILY EVENT CAUSING SEVERAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, AND, ONE ONE OCCASION, LIGHTLY DAMAGING A PARKED C-123. FANK CONTINUES TO CONDUCT CLEARING OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE AREA CLEAR OF ENEMY. THE INTENSITY OF ENEMY ACTIVITY HAS LESSENED, AND THE SITUATION IS STABLE AT THE MOMENT.

14. FRIENDLY FORCES OPERATING ALONG ROUTE 5 NORTH OF KOMPONG CHHNANG ARE MOPPING UP SMALL POCKETS OF ENEMY RESISTANCE WEST OF THE HIGHWAY. A TWO-BATTALION OPERATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 15111 02 OF 02 121333Z

8 KM NORTHEAST OF THE CITY ENJOYED GOOD SUCCESS, REPORTEDLY KILLING OVER 50 ENEMY. ON NOVEMBER 10, A

105-TRUCK CONVOY BROUGHT BADLY-NEEDED RICE FROM BATTAMBANG TO KOMPONG CHHNANG WITHOUT INCIDENT.

15. ENEMY MORTAR AND GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE OUDONG/LOVEK AREA HAVE INCREASED. TO SUPPRESS THIS ACTIVITY, GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE CONDUCTED PATROLS NIGHT AND DAY, AND MOUNTED SEVERAL BATTALION-SIZED SEARCH AND CLEAR OPERATIONS. ON ONE SUCH OPERATION, ELEMENTS OF THE FANK 80TH BRIGADE SWEEPED SOUTHWEST OF ROUTE 5, ENGAGING THE ENEMY AND REPORTEDLY KILLING TWENTY. A FEW DAYS LATER, THE 80TH CONDUCTED ANOTHER OPERATION ACROSS THE TONLE SAP KILLING 30 KC AND CAPTURING 7, ALONG WITH NUMEROUS INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT.

16. SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH THE BASSAC RIVER OPERATION SUFFERED A SLIGHT SETBACK AS HEAVY ENEMY ATTACKS ON NOVEMBER 5 CAUSED THREE BATTALIONS IN TASK FORCE BRAVO TO RETREAT IN DISORDER. THE NEXT DAY, HOWEVER, THE DEFENSE LINE WAS CONSOLIDATED AND GOVERNMENT FORCES MOVED TO REGAIN THE LOST POSITIONS. KAF AIR SUPPORT WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FORCING THE ENEMY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE AREA, ALLOWING FANK UNITS TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS AGAINST LITTLE RESISTANCE.

17. NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH A HEAVY ENEMY ATTACK ON NOVEMBER 10 CAUSED ONE FANK POSITION TO FALL. KAF PROVIDED HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AND REINFORCEMENTS FROM NEARBY UNITS WERE INTRODUCED, BUT THE SITUATION, IS NOT YET UNDER CONTROL.

18. A MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH. IT SUSTAINED THREE ABFS ENROUTE. ONE NAVAL ESCORT CRAFT WAS BADLY DAMAGED AND TWO CREW MEMBERS WERE KILLED. TONLE SAP RIVER CONVOY MADE TWO ROUND TRIPS FROM PHNOM PENH TO KOMPONG CHHNANG SUFFERING ONLY ONE ABF. ANOTHER TWO CONVOYS TRAVELLED THE MEKONG FROM KOMPONG CHAM TO PHNOM PENH. ONE SUFFERED TWO ABFS ENROUTE RESULTING IN NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. FINALLY, A RICE CONVOY FROM SIEM REAP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 PHNOM 15111 02 OF 02 121333Z

NAVIGATED THE TONLE SAP TO PHNOM PENH WITHOUT INCIDENT.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KHMER REPORT, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM15111
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740325-0789
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741150/aaaabqpk.tel
Line Count: 378
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT --NOVEMBER 12, 1974 GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005